



## Embassy of the United States of America

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**@Sam's**, a one stop product to help keep you informed about U.S. government policies on current interest issues, is a periodic selection of online reports, documents and websites on selected topics from both U.S. government and non-governmental organizations and institutions, categorized into six thematic areas: Regional Security, Economics and Trade, Democracy and Human Rights, Global Issues and Environment, Media and Information Technology, and Education and Culture. Full texts of the articles are available at your fingertips by clicking the embedded links.

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## **@SAM'S** **DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS**

*November 29, 2013*

### **The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and 16 Days of Activism November 25-December 10, 2013**

November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Strengthening the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls is of vital importance to the interests and overall foreign policy of the United States.

This year, [the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign](#) continues the theme of "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!" The 16 Days Campaign focuses on three priority areas while underlining the intersections of economic and social rights with militarism and gender-based violence: 1) Violence Perpetrated by State Actors: State actors use the threat or act of violence to maintain or attain power 2) Domestic Violence and the Role of Small Arms 3) Sexual Violence During and After Conflict.

#### **U.S. ACTIONS AND EFFORTS**

[Secretary Kerry's Statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and 16 Days of Activism](#) (November 25, 2013) - "Each November 25, we reaffirm a global commitment to the elimination of violence against women and renew our collective pledge to the 16 Days of



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Activism against Gender-based Violence."

[Ambassador Samantha Power's Statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#) (November 25, 2013) - "Today is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, but today should not be the only day we decide to face the grim reality of our societies' pandemic of female violence. On this day, let us instead commit ourselves to standing up for the dignity of every woman, every day."

[Ambassador Catherine M. Russell's Testimony on the Global Gender-Based Violence Threat](#) (November 20, 2013) - "Violence against women and girls is a global epidemic. It crosses every social and economic class, ethnicity, race, religion, and education level, and transcends international borders."

[Presidential Memorandum -- Coordination of Policies and Programs to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women and Girls Globally](#) (January 30, 2013) - Promoting gender equality and advancing the status of all women and girls around the world remains one of the greatest unmet challenges of our time, and one that is vital to achieving our overall foreign policy objectives. Ensuring that women and girls, including those most marginalized, are able to participate fully in public life, are free from violence, and have equal access to education, economic opportunity, and health care increases broader economic prosperity, as well as political stability and security.

[Secretary Kerry Announces New Initiative to Address Gender-Based Violence in Global Humanitarian Emergencies](#) (September 23, 2013) - Secretary of State John Kerry announced Monday the provision of \$10 million in funding for a new U.S. initiative, Safe from the Start, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies worldwide. Secretary Kerry emphasized that in the face of conflict and disaster, we should strive to protect women and girls from sexual assault and other violence.

[Presidential Proclamation on Women's Equality Day](#) (August 23, 2013) - "As we reflect with pride on decades of progress toward gender equality, we must also resolve to make progress in our time. Today, we honor the pioneers of women's equality by doing our part to realize that great American dream -- the dream of a Nation where all things are possible for all people."

[Secretary Kerry's Remarks on International Women's Day](#) (March 7, 2013) - "Around the globe, whether they are creating and embracing new opportunities for education and entrepreneurship in Afghanistan, working for



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democratic reform in Burma, or advancing human rights in the Middle East and North Africa, more women are finding their voices, lifting up communities and nations, and paving the way for future generations to live a better life."

### **FACT SHEET**

[The United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally](#) (August 2012) - The United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally, advances the Department of State's efforts to raise the status of women and girls around the world and underscores the United States Government's commitment to preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

[USAID Fact Sheet: Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally](#) - The goal of the strategy is to marshal U.S. expertise and capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally.

[U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security](#) (December 2011) - The goal of this National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security is to empower half the world's population as equal partners in preventing conflict and building peace in countries threatened and affected by war, violence, and insecurity.

### **ONLINE READING**

[Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent It?](#)

UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV. September 2013, 120 pages.

The study aimed to deepen the understanding of the meaning and causes of men's violence against women. The study was premised on the well-documented hypothesis that violence against women is a manifestation of unequal gender relations and harmful manifestations of hegemonic masculinity governed by patriarchal beliefs, institutions and systems.

[Breaking the Silence on Violence against Indigenous Girls, Adolescents and Young Women](#)

UNICEF. May 2013, 75 pages.

This new collaborative study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the magnitude, nature and context of violence experienced specifically by



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indigenous girls, adolescents and young women.

[Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources](#)

UN Women and OHCHR. 2013, 68 pages.

This joint UN Women and OHCHR publication is intended as a tool to guide and support the adoption and effective implementation of laws, policies and programs to ensure women's access, use and control over land and other productive resources.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT WEB SITES**

- [U.S. Department of State's Office of Global Women's Issues](#)
- [U.S. Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues](#)
- [White House Council on Women and Girls](#)
- [Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\)](#)
- [USAID Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#)

**USEFUL RESOURCES**

- [UN Women](#)
- [Say No - Unite End Violence Against Women Site](#)
- [Center for Women's Global Leadership](#)

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